

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): In an image decoding method which comprises reproducing a DC image corresponding to each block mean value per B pixel from encoding data with respect to the HVQ system, making a part of said DC image a DC nest, and reproducing image data of target block by synthesizing, to DC value of target block, one or more basis vectors which is selected from DC nests based on the encoding data, the improvement which comprises setting the lowest  $n$  ( $n = \log_2 B$ ) bits of the DC pixels in each sample to 0, where the selected block is down-sampled from the DC nest and the block mean value of it is calculated using the samples.

Claim 12 (original): In an image decoding method which comprises reproducing a DC image corresponding to each block mean value per B pixel from encoding data with respect to the HVQ system, making a part of said DC image a DC nest, and reproducing image data of target block synthesizing, to DC value of target block, one or more basis vectors which is selected from DC nests based on the encoding data, the improvement which comprise, where the decoded basis is information with respect to  $\beta_k < u_k >$  ( $k = 1 \sim m$ ), setting the lowest  $n$  ( $n = \log_2 B$ ) bits of the DC pixels per each

selected block ( $U_k$ ) read out from the DC nest to 0, calculating a product-sum of basis  $\beta_k < u_k >$  ( $k = 1 \sim m$ ), and then dividing the calculated result by the block pixel number B.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claims 11 and 12~~Claim 11, wherein the lowest n bits of each DC pixel is made 0, where DC nests are produced from the DC image.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): In an image decoding apparatus which comprises reproducing a DC image corresponding to each block mean value per B pixel from encoding data with respect to the HVQ system, making a part of said DC image a DC nest, and reproducing image data of target block by synthesizing, to the DC value of target block, one or more basis vectors which is selected from DC nests based on the encoding data, the improvement comprising a memory to store the DC nest in which the lowest n ( $n = \log_2 B$ ) bits of the DC nest pixels are set to 0.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (Newly added): The method according to Claims 12, wherein the lowest n bits of each DC pixel is made 0, where DC nests are produced from the DC image.